



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

City Accepts Proposal for Health Insurance Coverage After Mayor Encourages Competition

New Bedford, Massachusetts- In the fall of 2006, the City of New Bedford, in cooperation with its labor organizations and the Insurance Advisory Committee, issued a Request for Proposals for health insurance coverage for the City of New Bedford. The request was for coverage that would update and expand the benefit options while maintaining very high levels of coverage at the best possible price.

As a result of the competitive process, the City accepted as the winning proposal the bid from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, the nation's top-rated health plan for member satisfaction and quality of care according to a joint ranking of commercial plans by *U.S. News & World Report* and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). The benefit offerings will provide quality coverage and substantial savings for City employees, their families, all retirees and the City Government. The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care proposal provides the taxpayers of New Bedford relief from the upward spiral of health insurance costs while maintaining the utmost quality of health care coverage for City employees, their families and all retired workers. After review, the Harvard Pilgrim proposal has the endorsement of the Insurance Advisory Committee representing our labor organizations. Throughout the month of July representatives of Harvard Pilgrim will conduct informational and enrollment meetings with all employees, labor organizations and retirees to provide for an orderly transition to Harvard Pilgrim.

Mayor Scott W. Lang stated, "Over the past few weeks I have met with the Insurance Advisory Committee and many employee unions to discuss Harvard Pilgrim's proposal. It is my expectation that the City will begin its coverage under the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care on September 1, 2007. I believe that switching health insurance coverage to Harvard Pilgrim is essential for the fiscal health of our City employees, their families, and the retirees of New Bedford. More importantly, however, I am pleased with the Harvard Pilgrim proposal that will provide the highest quality health insurance coverage for our city employees their families and the retirees of New Bedford."

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